



Council of the  
European Union

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(Foreign Affairs)  
20 July 2023

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## 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 11815/23.

## 2. Approval of "A" items

### a) Non-legislative list

11816/23

The Council adopted all the "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

For the following items the documents should read as follows:

### Foreign Affairs

15. Restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - amended statements of reasons: pre-notifications

*Approval*

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 19.07.2023

11927/23 + **REV 1**  
CORLX

### General Affairs

24. Specification of the Union position to be taken in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries under the EU-UK TCA

*Approval*

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 19.07.2023

11705/23  
11212/1/23 REV 1  
11212/23 ADD 1-3  
+ **ADD 2 COR 1**  
(nl)  
UK

### Delegated or Implementing Acts

#### Internal Market and Industry

28. Commission Delegated Decision of 23.5.2023 amending and correcting Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the evidence of formal qualifications and the titles of training courses

*Delegated act - Intention not to raise objections*

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 12.07.2023]

11467/23  
9818/23 + ADD 1  
+ **COR 1 (lt)**  
MI

**b) Legislative list** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

11817/23

### Foreign Affairs

1. **Regulation on temporary trade liberalisation supplementing trade concessions under the EU-Moldova Association Agreement**



11499/23  
PE-CONS 32/23  
POLCOM

*Adoption of the legislative act*

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 19.07.2023

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Articles 207(2) of the TFEU).

2. **Act in support of ammunition production (ASAP) Regulation**



11787/23 + ADD 1  
+ ADD 2 REV 1  
PE-CONS 46/23  
INDEF

*Adoption of the legislative act*

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 19.07.2023

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Greece abstaining (legal basis: Articles 114 and 173(3) TFEU). The Council also approved a joint statement with the European Parliament. All statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

### Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs<sup>1</sup>
4. Russian aggression against Ukraine<sup>2</sup>  
*Exchange of views*

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<sup>1</sup> Including an informal exchange of views with the United States Secretary of State (via videoconference)

<sup>2</sup> Including an informal exchange of views with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (via videoconference)

5. Türkiye  
*Exchange of views*



6. Foreign policy dimension of economic security  
*Exchange of views*

7. Any other business



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal



Restricted item

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**Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 11817/23****Ad "A" item 2:**      **Act in support of ammunition production (ASAP) Regulation**  
*Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

“The European Parliament and the Council acknowledge the urgency of the need to help the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) to ramp up production in the context of the challenges created by Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, and recall that the Regulation on supporting ammunition production (ASAP) provides an immediate response to that urgent need by putting in place a new temporary instrument to facilitate industrial investments.

The European Parliament and the Council stress the need to consider all appropriate measures to strengthen and develop the EDTIB, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and to remove obstacles and bottlenecks so as to allow the industry to produce more along the value chains.

The European Parliament and the Council therefore call on the Commission to consider, as appropriate, putting forward as soon as possible any further initiatives necessary to strengthen the EDTIB, including adequate financing, for instance in the context of the European Defence Investment Programme, as well as a legal framework aimed at ensuring security of supply and supporting ammunition production.

The European Parliament and the Council agree to examine any such initiatives without delay and in a spirit of mutual sincere cooperation.”

**STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA, IRELAND, LUXEMBOURG AND MALTA**

“Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg and Malta have concerns about the text in Recital 35 stating that the European Investment Bank (EIB) should enhance its support to the European defence industry and joint procurement beyond its ongoing support to dual use, where such investments would clearly serve to implement the Strategic Compass priorities. We would not be supportive of the European Investment Bank enhancing its support beyond its ongoing support to dual use.”

**STATEMENT BY BELGIUM AND ESTONIA**

“Belgium and Estonia welcome the ambitious initiative of the Commission to bolster ammunition production (as a response to track 3 agreed by the Council on 20 March 2023) with a view to speeding up the joint procurement and a swift delivery to Ukraine.

We fully support the proposed dual track (programming and regulatory) approach of the Commission in the submitted Regulation on supporting ammunition production (ASAP).

We need to engage in reinforcing our responsiveness and ability to support Ukraine and at the same time we deem that there is a window of opportunity to seize, in order to stimulate and strengthen the European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB) to fulfil the commitments we all have made.

This proposal is key to increasing our military assistance to Ukraine and fostering collaborative capability development and procurement, thus ensuring more efficiency and greater effectiveness by increasing economies of scale, while enhancing the EU's resilience and security of supply. Measures proposed in its regulatory part in order to reduce bottlenecks, ensure swift delivery and secure supply as well as critical components are essential building blocks of such approach.

We therefore invite the Spanish Presidency to further explore common ground on a regulatory approach with a view to future instruments."

## **STATEMENT BY GREECE**

"Greece is committed to the dual purpose of providing support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces as well as reinforcing the capabilities of the European defence industry. We fully support the adoption and implementation of EU initiatives designed to benefit the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base and bolster the defence cooperation of the Member States.

Greece believes that all EU initiatives in the area of defence must remain fully compatible with the defence and security interests of the Member States. In this vein, industrial policy instruments dealing with defence must respect the requirements of the Common Security and Defence Policy and Title V of the Treaty of the European Union. In defence initiatives, industrial policy concerns and market concerns cannot override the principles of the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Greece recalls that this Regulation on supporting ammunition production (ASAP) refers to a short-term instrument to urgently support the ramp-up of the production capacity of ammunition and missiles by the EU defence industry, in order to address urgent and critical defence capability gaps, under specific conditions and criteria determined by specific circumstances, namely those created by the response to the current aggression by Russia, and does not create in any way a precedent as to the proposal of other instruments in the area of defence capabilities and the conditions and the criteria of application thereof, including the definition of security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States in the case of entities controlled by a non-associated third country or a non-associated third-country entity.

Full respect of the principle of good neighbourly relations by third countries remains a crucial factor in the determination of the Union's and Member States' security and defence interests."